FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 APRIL 1985

Sudan

Consultations are underway with trade unions and parties to form a new government, which could take as little as "weeks if not days" if parties agree, Armed Forces Commander in Chief General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab said in remarks broadcast by Omdurman radio. While disclosing that he has sent an envoy to arrange talks with Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) Commander in Chief John Garang de Mabior, he said it is "impossible" to meet Garang's 7-day deadline for the formation of a civilian government. Addressing economic priorities, Siwar al-Dhahab thanked the United States for its support and noted that bilateral relations remain "good." He also announced the government's intention to reopen Khartoum airport very soon.

Discussing the former government in an *AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI* interview reported by Cairo radio, Siwar al-Dhahab said that former President Ja'far Numayri will not be prevented from returning, although he noted that some leaders will face trial. Meanwhile, MENA noted the release of the former information minister and SUNA cited a new government decree which recognizes all existing laws until they are repealed or amended.

In a later development, Omdurman radio broadcast a statement by the "Congregation of the National Forces for the Salvation of the Country" praising the "vanguard role" played by Garang's movement but disagreeing with the latter's denunciation of the new military regime. Asserting that the Armed Forces are genuinely committed to transferring power to the "national forces" as soon as possible, the statement called on Garang to participate in forming a national government. Nevertheless, Garang's clandestine SPLA radio continued to castigate the new regime, contending that Siwar al-Dhahab was brought to power by the CIA as a "smarter stooge" than Numayri.

As for foreign relations, Sudanese sources cited by Kuwait's *AL-SIYASAH* predicted that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will arrive in Khartoum for talks with Siwar al-Dhahab shortly. Monitored Egyptian media have not confirmed this. Saudi King Fahd sent a congratulatory cable to Siwar al-Dhahab stressing the Kingdom's "strong ties" with Sudan, according to Riyadh radio.

PLO-Jordan

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Jordanian King Husayn made a "comprehensive evaluation" of the 11 February PLO-Jordanian agreement during talks at Al-Nadwah Palace late on 10 April, Amman radio disclosed. 'Arafat had arrived in Amman from Tunis earlier in the day, stressing his view that the 11 February agreement is an "important achievement," the radio noted. A Palestinian source cited by Radio Monte Carlo stated that 'Arafat would meet a U.S. Congressional delegation in Amman on 11 April.

Lebanon

Prime Minister Rashid Karami, in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio, announced his intention to boycott Cabinet meetings pending a solution of the problems that have impeded implementation of measures to resolve the crisis in Sidon. The announcement followed a cabinet meeting during which President Amin al-Jumayyil acknowledged that efforts to deal with the situation have thus far proved fruitless, though he noted that the Army Command has been instructed to provide the equipment necessary for the dispatch of reinforcements to the south, according to the radio. As for the recent Christian conference in Bkirki, Karami welcomed its "positive" stands in a subsequent statement reported by the radio. However, in remarks broadcast by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt and Islamic Unification Movement leader Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban dismissed the Christian call for an Islamic-Christian conference.

Syria

Syria needs to concentrate on improving agricultural production and establishing new industries providing consumer products, President Hafiz al-Asad told the new cabinet in remarks reported by Damascus television. Attributing the country's economic problems to "failures at various levels," Al-Asad said officials should be accountable for any dereliction of duty.

Iraq-FRG

The Iraqi Government has declared the FRG charge d'affaires persona non grata and asked him to leave the country within a week because of his "impertinent" and "flagrant" interference in Iraq's international affairs, an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman announced in a statement reported by INA. The FRG Foreign Ministry has no knowledge of actions by the charge d'affaires which were irreconcilable with his status as a diplomat, according to an FRG spokesman in Bonn cited by DPA.

Iran-Iraq War

IRNA reported that Iraqi planes and artillery continued to use chemical weapons against Iranian troops on the southern fronts. A Joint Staff communique cited by the agency stated that over 100 Iranians were injured by such weapons the night of 9 April.

Pakistan

The new cabinet, listed by Karachi radio, contains nine new appointments while four ministers from the previous administration retain their posts. Some of the new appointees are technical experts with no previous government experience, according to AFP.

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Public Works Minister Meets With USSR Delegation

LD102327 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] The high delegation of the USSR State Committee for Construction Affairs, headed by D. Pankovskiy, that committee's deputy chairman and the DRA Ministry of Public Works delegation, under the chairmanship of Engineer Nazar Muhammad, minister of public works, this morning continued talks at the Ministry of Public Works and discussed topics of interest. The head of the State Planning Committee department of investment in major construction and a Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative were also present.

During the talks, the Soviet Union State Committee for Construction Affairs and the DRA Ministry of Public Works positively appraised scientific and technical cooperation within the framework of the existing agreements in the areas of project-making and the assessment of construction.

Pankovskiy and his entourage had a cordial meeting this morning with the mayor of Kabul.

'Successful Operations' Against Rebels Reported

LD091754 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Apr 85

[Text] A BAKHTAR correspondent, quoting a source of security forces in Herat Province, reports that in the course of successful operations carried out recently in that province, a number of rebels, who on the orders of the criminal Jami'at-e Eslami and Nehzat-e Eslami bands were disrupting the peaceful lives of the people, were crushed and a number of them were captured. The security forces also seized from them 61 assorted weapons, one DShK, a large amount of ammunition, and antistate documents that show their direct links with imperialist countries. They also destroyed three of their hideouts.

According to another report, as a result of successful operations by the security forces carried out recently in Nangarhar Province, 17 rebels were crushed; 4 of the crminals were captured; and 3 Chinese Kalashnikovs, 200 chemical mines, 22 assorted Chinese mines, 100 kg of plastic explosives, 6 detonators, and a large quantity of antistate documents were seized from them. Also, 60 mines designed for the destruction of hydroelectric dams and electrical pylons, 80 antitank mines, 3 chemical mines made in China, and 300 kg of [word indistinct] plastic explosives were destroyed.

Similarly, as a result of operations in Dawlatabad District, Faryab Province, a number of armed rebels were killed and 12 assorted weapons, 10 hand grenades, a quantity of ammunition, and medicine were seized from them.

Recently, 60 counterrevolutionary elements including one of their ringleaders by the name of Abdul Satar Pahlawan were crushed by the security forces of Jowzjan Province in Sadeq village, Mordian subdistrict, Aqchah District, Jowzjan Province; 11 of the criminals were captured. The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that 12 Egyptian Kalashnikovs, four American (?markol) weapons, 2 rocket-launchers with 5 shells, 4 hand grenades and more than 4,000 rounds of assorted ammunition have been seized from these criminals subservient to imperialism.

Hong Kong Radio on Claim of Downed Soviet Plane

HK110634 Hong Kong Commercial Radio in English 0430 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Afghan rebels claim to have shot down a Soviet transport plane killing all 24 people on board. They say the aircraft was brought down by heavy gunfire about 2 weeks ago. The claim has not been verified. The resistance fighters also say that one of their units has been surrounded by Soviet troops and suffered 26 dead and 56 injured. The rebels were trapped in an area near the Pakistani border.

Iranian Attempts at Interference Condemned

LD101919 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] A BAKHTAR commentator writes:

At a time when the faithful people of Afghanistan including all brothers, tribes, and nationalities residing in Afghanistan — Pashtuns, Tajiks, Hazaras, Turkmens, Pashaii, and Nurestanis — in a free and democratic atmosphere and with equal rights have unitedly rallied around the PDPA and are forging ahead with firm and successful strides in constructing a prosperous and new society in their revolutionary country; when they are cleansing the folds of the motherland from the filth of the infiltrated savage counterrevolutionary bands from abroad to maintain nationwide peace and tranquillity in the country and they are resolutely defending the values of the April Revolution and the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of their beloved homeland against interference and aggression; at this time the leaders of the agent and servant counterrevolutionary bands, in order to prolong their shameful lives, once again speak in vain about unity. Such bluster comes out of the mass media of the reactionary regime authorities ruling Iran.

To take a recent example, a man who sold out and an agent of the Iranian ruling reactionary regime, who is a leader of an Afghan counterrevolutionary band, spoke to Iranian Television about the so-called unity of four murderous bands. This sold out element has put a condition on this unity and that is: Whoever wants to join him, ought to follow the instructions of the reactionary circles in Iran. This hue and cry about unity has arisen at a time when, on one hand the Afghan fugitives have become aware of the anti-Islamic savage brutality and tyranny of the ruling circles of Iran, who are used as gun fodder in the Iran-Iraq war and, on the other hand the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands have lost their verbal credibility among the deceived people; those who, to gain a handful of dollars, rupees, and rials are fighting each other.

It is under such conditions that the reactionary circles ruling Iran have taken this initiative and are, by spreading lies, trying in vain to keep the Afghan fugitives in suspense for a few more days; to

use them for their unlawful aims and to cover up the weakness of the counterrevolutionary bands by fabricating stories such as that of their so-called unity.

The Iranian reactionary circles want, on the one hand, to increase their leadership and control over the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands and on the other hand, by abusing the sacred religion of Islam, portray themselves as at the service of the religious beliefs of our people and in this way carry out their adventurous and interventionist policy in the internal affairs of our country.

It should be pointed out that the faithful and patriotic people of Afghanistan chose their path to construct a new society 7 years ago. Interventionists and reactionaries would, under no name or slogans, be able to determine the destiny of the militant and heroic people of Afghanistan. The reactionary circles ruling Iran must realize that the shameful life of the criminal bands of the Afghan counterrevolutionaries has come to an end. Their sympathy and the faked unity of these mercenaries cannot rescue these counterrevolutionary murderers from complete defeat and annihilation. This is the dictate of the times and the demand of the people of Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan strongly condemn and fight against this type of vain effort, which is nothing but open interference and aggression against the internal affairs of their country.

Commentary Views Iranian Treatment of Refugees

LD092213 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 0735 GMT 8 Apr 85

[BAKHTAR commentary]

[Text] As you heard in last night's newscast, the reactionary authorities of the (?Iranian regime) have organized another [word indistinct] incident among our deceived compatriots and the guards of that regime have committed a new crime against Afghan refugees. (?During this) tragic incident, about 10 deceived Afghans were killed and more than 100 of them were seriously wounded.

This is not the first time that the reactionary authorities of [word indistinct] regime resorted to organizing an inhuman crime. During past bloody incidents in Javadiyeh, Malavi square in Tehran, Varamin, Karaj, Shiraz, and Mashhad, hundreds of Afghan refugees have been killed and a large number of them injured. The purpose of these bloody incidents such as the recent incident in Mashhad, the adoption and imposition of measures such as identity cards and compulsory residence cards for the deceived Afghans and their transfer from border provinces to the central regions of that country [words indistinct].

By resorting to such measures and inhuman actions, the reactionary authorities of the regime ruling Iran want to put our deceived compatriots under [word indistinct] and pressure in order to use them as tools to carry out the reactionary policies of that country in the Iran-Iraq war.

[Words indistinct] by using the leaders of the bandit-like and murdering counterrevolutionary bands, the reactionary authorities of the regime ruling Iran resort to various [word indistinct] and try to keep away our compatriots from the course of social progress and the gains of the April Revolution in their free and independent country, Afghanistan, so they will not know that if they return to the homeland they will be pardoned in light of the general amnesty decreed by the government and that they would be free from poverty, misery, homelessness, and, finally, uncertainty and all working and living conditions would be available for them so they would have the opportunity, together with their compatriots, to serve their homeland and people.

Life and experience demonstrate that despite all these vain efforts to create obstacles for the return of our deceived compatriots and to use them to achieve their own sinister ends, our deceived compatriots, realizing the truth of their revolution and homeland, decide to return to their homeland but the Iranian authorities [word indistinct] other unlawful actions, resort to organizing bloody incidents to prevent them from returning.

The recent bloody incident in Mashhad is a significant example of these inhuman actions and crimes.

Relying on the truth of our path, we profoundly [word indistinct] that neither the reactionary authorities of the regime ruling Iran nor any other reactionary force in the world, by resorting to such criminal acts, will be able to hide the [words indistinct] truth and to create the grounds for the permanent deception of the masses.

Our deceived compatriots, aside from their other problems such as hunger, unemployment, lack of homes [word indistinct] and insult have now been forced by the authorities of the Iranian regime to [word indistinct] in camps in Gorgan, Esfahan, Yazd, Birjand, and Kerman in misery and without any future, and to participate in the Iran-Iraq war and anti-Afghan operations. Upon realizing the truth of the April Revolution and the human policies of their party and revolutionary government, these compatriots are (?returning) to their homeland despite all obstacles and difficulties created by the reactionary authorities ruling Iran and are taking active part in the defense of the revolution and its gains.

The return of groups of our compatriots to their free and independent country is the vivid manifestation of the fact that no power has the ability to prevent the increasing (?understanding) of our compatriots of the truth of their homeland and society.

Report of Refugees Killed in Iran Denied

GF081758 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 8 Apr 85

[Text] The radio of the antipopular Karmal regime, in continuation of its poisonous propaganda against our refugee brothers and sisters who have fled the murders and cruel treatment of this regime — a mercenary of foreigners — and who have sought shelter in our neighbouring country, two nights ago carried a false report claiming that 10 of our refugee brothers were killed by security personnel in Iran.

A brother refugee who has been in exile for 6 years and lives in the holy city of Mashhad told us: Such moves and propaganda

ploys of the puppet regime in Afghanistan are not new to any member of the Muslim and innocent Afghan nation. Our Muslim nation is completely familiar with the tricks of the agents of the Karmal regime and their masters and will not be fooled by such plots.

He added: The Karmal regime, in spreading such garbage, is in fact trying to cover up its crimes in carrying out numerous bombings as well as to soil the selfless support of the Muslim people of Iran for the Islamic Revolution of the people of Afghanistan.

He then stressed that not one single member of our refugee brothers has been killed in Mashhad or any other Iranian city, adding: Such rumors are created by the Karmal regime's mercenaries in the satanic [name indistinct] organization in order to upset the minds of our innocent and Muslim nation. These are all lies.

Editorial Criticizes PRC 'Hostile Policy'

LD050903 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 4 Apr 85

[Text] Kabul, April 4, BAKHTAR — Following is a full text of an article entitled Real Face of Beijing published by the editorial board of daily *HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR* today.

Recently Beijing has intensified its anti-Afghan campaign among other things the recent article published in the daily *RENMIN RIBAO* authored by daily's political commentator on the so-called "problem of Afghanistan" and the note by the permanent representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations addressed to the secretary-general of the said organization which is prepared in an anti-Afghan language testify to this fact. This clearly shows that Beijing envisages to continue in future, too, a hostile policy towards our people and revolution and to actively participate in the undeclared war waged against the DRA by forces of imperialism and the reaction of the region.

Numerous facts undeniably prove the interference of China in the internal affairs of our independent country and to the extensive armed support rendered by Beijing to counter-revolutionary bands fighting the people of Afghanistan. These facts have been enumerated in the letter of the Central Committee of the PDPA addressed to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the protest note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and the note of the permanent representative of the DRA to the United Nations addressed to Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations Organization. It would not be out of place to restate some of these facts.

Recently in the wake of the defeat suffered by counter-revolutionary bands around Kabul city and in the provinces, a huge quantity of weapons made in China, including ground-to-air missiles and their launchers, reactive shells as well as mines, light machine guns, anti-air machine guns and anti-tank rocket launchers were captured by our soldiers. These lethal weapons are being used against innocent civilians, including the inhabitants of the capital, resulting in human and material losses and considerable damage, to economic and cultural institutions. Information has been received on the transfer of some of the counter-revolutionary camps from the territory of Pakistan to the People's Republic of China, where they are trained by the Chinese instructors, in the use of weapons and terroristic methods. A number of such camps have been established in Xinjiang Province close to the borders of the DRA.

Hundreds of Chinese instructors are training Afghan counter-revolutionaries in the training centers located on the territory of Pakistan as well. Furthermore, in the summer of 1984 around 2,000 heavy machine guns, 1,000 rounds of anti-tank rockets and around half a million rounds of machine gun and rifle bullets were delivered to the Afghan counter-revolution through the Pakistan Army. The Karakorum highway, built by the People's Republic of China on the territory of Pakistan and through which millitary hardware is transported to the Afghan counter-revolution is today nicknamed the "highway of death."

These are the facts since those in Beijing are unable to believe these facts, they described these facts as baseless. However, the facts are there. These facts expose in all clarity to the international community and to the Chinese people the acts being committed by Chinese leadership.

The Chinese leadership, in their anti-Afghan rhetorics, sidetrack the principled question posed the Afghan side: What is the reason that Beijing has openly sided with the darkest reactionary forces, U.S. imperialism, and the reactionary regimes of the region in the struggle against the Afghan revolution? What has caused the People's Republic of China, a country which claims to be revolutionary and progressive, to assist in practice imperialism and reactionaries of all sorts who are united only on the basis of their common hatred towards revolution and social progress?

It is known to everybody that the April Revolution from its very inception has been like a sword placed on the throat of reaction and imperialism. By waging the "undeclared war" against Afghanistan, they seek to bring back to the country the feudals, big landlords, the usurers and all those who oppressed our people and thrived on their sweat and blood. It is these very forces which form the backbone of the counter-revolution.

The enemies of Revolutionary Afghanistan seek to deprive our people of the boons brought to them by the revolution and they raise obstacles on the path of the working people of Afghanistan towards a bright future, towards peaceful work for the prosperity and development of the country and towards emancipation from hungers, illiteracy and disease. It would seem as if China must not have anything to do with such a counter-revolutionary policy because the Chinese people have had a bitter experience of their own of the grim oppression of imperialism reactionary system. The Chinese revolution had taken place to emancipate the people of that country from the yoke of this tyranny. Then why does the Chinese leadership seek to deny the right of Afghan people for freedom, independence and the right for choosing an independent path of development? Let those in the People's Republic of China who are for assisting the Afghan counter-revolution ponder as what will be the consequences of their victory of the latter. For it is clear to everybody that the victory of the counter-revolution in our country would have inevitably resulted into civil war, and

the suppressions of genuine patriots of our country, pushing back of Afghanistan to the Middle Ages, and establishment of a Pol-Potian regime in its most notorious form.

The internationalist assistance of the great Soviet Union to our country in the struggle against foreign aggression and interference has particularly roused the hatred of the Chinese mass media. In Beijing they do not want to reckon with the fact that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics rushed to our assistance, on our own invitation, the invitation of the legal government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in a most difficult period when our revolution and the independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country were endangered. Imperialism, hagemonism and the reaction of the region who with the assistance of counter-revolutionary mercenaries and bandits have waged aggression against our country had brought about this danger.

Therefore, we had every reason, on the basis of international laws to ask for assistance from our old friend, the Soviet Union. The limited military contingent of the Soviet Union have been dispatched to Afghanistan on the basis of the invitation of the legal government of the DRA on the basis of article Four of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good-Neighbourliness between the DRA and the USSR as well as Article 51 of the United Nations Charter for the sole purpose of repelling together with the armed force of Afghanistan aggression directed from abroad. We have pointed out time and again that the moment these interferences are terminated and guarantess are provided for the non-resumption of these foreign interferences, the limited military contingent of the Soviet Union will return, on the basis of an agreement with the DRA, to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Once again it must be pointed out to the Chinese leadership that it was the same Soviet Union which defended the Chinese revolution and offered in the struggle against imperialist aggression and the Kuomintang reaction vast military assistance to China both in the form of weapons and the dispatch of advisers.

Then why something which was acceptable to China is now being labelled as aggression against our national sovereignty? The crux of the matter is the question as to whom and why military assistance is being rendered and what are the aims of such an assistance. This is the criterion and herein lies the difference between the assistance rendered by China in collusion with imperialist and regional reaction to the diehard Afghan counter-revolution whose political programme boils down to a revival of the old, discredited system and the support of the Soviet Union to a revolution which has an anti-imperialist and national democractic character. For our people, not only the military assistance of the Soviet Union but the all sided and really selfless assistance of the country and other countries of the socialist community are of great value in the context of a peaceful economic growth, construction of a new society and development of our culture.

Because the main objective of our revolution is to emancipate the people from the exploitation of man by man, hunger, age-old ignorance, to give the peasants land and water, to provide the work opportunities for the workers and to raise the living standards of the people to the level of the 20th century. Relying on the assistance of our friends, we are strengthening our economic independence on the basis of transforming the backward socio-economic structure and constructing the material and technical foundations, for the progress of the country.

The great fortune of the Afghan people lies in that they have been enjoying the selfless and friendly support of the Soviet Union, the countries of the socialist community and the progressive mankind since in their difficult moments of the establishment of the new system.

We would like to once again emphasize that Afghanistan does not desire to have a confrontation with other countries. Our foreign policy is on the principles of peaceful coexistence active and positive nonalignment and the struggle for peace and security. We wish to live in peace, friendship, and good will with all those respecting the right of the Afghan people for independent development. To achieve this end, there is only one prerequisite and that is that the enemies of our people and revolution should stop their hostile activities against us, our revolution and system. It would be better for the Beijing, to realize this at the earliest.

Gandhi Explains Foreign Policy to Lok Sabha

BK101657 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has expressed India's concern over Pakistan's feverish purchase of weapons far beyond its legitimate needs. He was replying to the 9-hour long debate on the budget demands of the External Affairs Ministry in the Lok Sabha today.

Mr Gandhi also referred to Pakistan's efforts to build nuclear weapons and said that it has recently acquired aircraft that can carry such weapons. He spoke of his two recent meetings with President Zia and said the discussions had been cordial. Unfortunately, after each meeting there were incidents which did not conform to the spirit of cordiality at the meetings.

The prime minister pointed out that the supply of weapons to Afghan mujahids through Pakistan by the United States has been the largest after the end of the Vietnam war. He said that nobody is certain where exactly these weapons go.

Referring to the foreign secretary's visit to Pakistan last week, the prime minister said it was intended mainly to create a friendly atmosphere leading to better relations. He clarified that no specific issues, including the no war pact, were discussed during Mr Bhandari's visit.

About relations with the United States, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said India has been trying to improve them. But there are a few issues which are standing in the way. These are: the enormous arms supply to Pakistan and lack of firm action to prevent Pakistan's nuclear weapon program. We feel that equipment and technology are still leaking from the United States. He hoped that his forthcoming visit to the United States will result in positive response and further strengthen the social, cultural, and trade relations between the two countries.

Turning to India's ties with the Soviet Union, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that they are time tested and India would always keep in mind that the Soviet Union stood by our country in times of need.

Explaining briefly the initiatives taken by India recently to improve its relations with her neighbors, the prime minister said that there are some hopeful signs concerning the Tamil problem in Sri Lanka. He said that whatever be the ghastly tragedy that befell Tamils in Sri Lanka, we should keep a long-range view and enable them to live in peace and honor in the years to come.

On Iran-Iraq war, Mr Gandhi said that India will continue to try to end this unfortunate war, though no end to it is visible at the moment.

On anti-India activities of extremists and secessionists in foreign countries, Mr Gandhi said the government had taken up the issue with the concerned governments and applied whatever pressure is possible. There has been some response.

Referring to the forthcoming festivals of India in the United States and France, he said these are aimed at showing what India really is and not what is perceived through the media.

He rounded up his speech by asserting that our foreign policy has proved correct over the years and it would be carried along the same line.

After his reply the house voted the budgetary demands of the ministry rejecting all cut motions.

Intervening in the debate the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, explained in detail India's recent efforts to improve its relations with neighbors bilaterally and through the forum of South Asia Regional Cooperation. He denied reports about a secret pact with Sri Lanka during the recent visit of the foreign secretary to that country.

Earlier, taking part in the debate, members advocated that the government should follow a firm but restrained policy in its efforts to find a solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. They expressed serious concern at the persecution of Tamils there and their continued large-scale influx to India.

Most of the members said that the main irritant in the way of improving Indo-Pakistan relations was supply of sophisticated arms to that country by the United States. They emphasized the need to build the bridges of friendship with all our neighbors and said all outstanding issues should be solved bilaterally.

Gandhi on Relations With U.S., USSR, Pakistan

BK110414 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] The prime minister has said according to all indications, Pakistan is going ahead with the development of a nuclear bomb. This will affect the peace in the subcontinent and in the region. Mr Rajiv Gandhi made this remark in an interview with a British television channel last night. He replied in the affirmative when asked whether he would take up this matter with the United States and the Soviet Union, which he is scheduled to visit during the next 2 months.

Mr Gandhi said he would also raise the question of the supply of American arms to Pakistan when he meets President Reagan. He said India is looking for reassurances, but these will have to be concrete. Washington looks the other way while Islamabad is developing a nuclear device, and (?it is) giving Pakistan a load of arms. The prime minister reiterated that India wants better relations with the United States, but this depends very much on what they are doing with Pakistan. He said President Ziaul Haq's actions are not commensurate with his words. Mr Gandhi emphasized that the gulf between India and Pakistan is not unbridgeable, and said there is a lot in common between the peoples.

Answering a question about India's relations with the Soviet Union and the United States, he said we are critical of both sides when they deserve criticism. In reply to another question, Mr Gandhi said the Soviet Union stood by India in times of need and the economic cooperation worked to the mutual benefit of both the countries. About Afghanistan, he said India is against the interference in the internal affairs of another country.

About Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi said he is in touch with President Jayewardene. We are hopeful that between us we will able to get a satisfactory solution.

Answering a question on Punjab, the prime minister said the ball is now in the court of the Akali leaders. The government has taken quite a few steps and intends to take more. The Sikh militants in Britain do not know what is happening in India and are causing more damage to the people in this country than they realize.

Disagreeing with the suggestion that the technocratic development of the country may tend to neglect the rural poor, Mr Gandhi said the agricultural revolution is in fact part of the technological development.

Gandhi Explains Government Stand on Punjab

BK101617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has reiterated that an early solution should be found to the Punjab issue. In an interview to a news magazine *FRONTLINE* published from Madras, the prime minister said that if the problem drifts for very long, we could get back into a similar situation to what we had a year ago.

Answering a question, Mr Gandhi said that lack of finality in the Akali stand is a major difficulty in negotiating with them. Mr Gandhi referred to the past experience of the Akalis adding to their demands after government had agreed to a package deal.

Mr Gandhi said it would require a lot of courage on the part of the Akali Dal to come forward. He expressed the hope that they will be able to show that they have the leadership in them, they are not being led.

The prime minister said that the mass contact program launched by the Congress-I on 5 April is aimed at removing the sense of alienation among the Sikhs. It would be continued for some time.

'Provocative' Acts at Bangladesh Border Reported

BK101037 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] The house was told today that provocative activities of the Bangladesh nationals are on the rise in the border areas. Answering supplementaries during question time, the home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan said the government has unconfirmed reports that Bangladesh Rifles is giving arms training to villagers on their side. As a result construction of roads and fencing on our side of the border is being threatened.

This matter is likely to figure in the talks by the foreign secretary with his counterpart in Bangladesh when he visits Dhaka this month.

The question of fencing the border will be taken up after judging the reaction of that country, Mr Chavan said.

Meanwhile, Central Public and Works Department has been asked to undertake a complete survey of the area after which fencing will be resumed.

DPRK Foreign Minister Begins 4-Day Visit 10 Apr

BK101319 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] The vice premier and foreign minister of the DPRK, Mr Kim Yong-nam, arrived in New Delhi this afternoon on a 4-day official visit to India. He was received at the airport among others by the minister of state for steel, Mr Natwar Singh.

Oil Minister on Agreements for 1985 Imports

BK090949 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Apr 85

[Text] Agreements have been signed with six countries for importing 8.5 million tonnes of crude oil in the current year. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha today, the minister of state for petroleum, Mr Naval Kishore Sharma, said 3 million tonnes of crude will be imported from the Soviet Union, 2.35 million tonnes from Iraq, 2 million tonnes from Iran, 500,000 tonnes each from Abu Dhabi and Oman, and over 100,000 tonnes from Nigeria. Except for the crude imported from the Soviet Union, over 1,100 crore rupees worth foreign exchange is involved in the import. Payment for the import from the Soviet Union is made in rupees.

Parliament Condemns Honoring of Indira Killers

BK101301 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] In the Lok Sabha today, the speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, said that the entire house unanimously condemns the reported honoring of the assassins of the late prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, by Akali leaders at various functions in Punjab.

He said there is no question of any difference on the issue of terrorism in the house. He said it is a (?blasting) shock and it is beyond his comprehension that anyone can stoop so low.

The speaker made this observation when Mr K.K. Tiwari, Congress-I, supported by his party colleagues, Mr Kamalnath and others, raised the issue of terrorism in the country, especially in Punjab. He alleged that family members of the assassins of Mrs Gandhi are being idolized by the Akali leaders. This is a serious matter and the home minister should make a statement.

The house witnessed noisy scenes when Mr Tiwari remarked that the opposition is maintaining silence over it. Immediately most of the opposition members were on their feet protesting that they had always condemned such acts and they are against terrorism.

The speaker pacified the agitated opposition members by saying that he must put the record straight and the entire house is one on this issue and that terrorism must be condemned.

Punjab Government Withdraws Ban on Firearms

BK101613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] The Punjab government has withdrawn the ban on carrying of firearms in public places in the state. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh today that the district magistrates are, however, free to impose the ban in their respective districts or any part of it if the local situation so demands.

Ahmedabad Peaceful Except For 'Stray Incidents'

BK110421 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] In Ahmedabad, the overall situation remained peaceful yesterday barring a few stray incidents. The police was forced to burst teargas shells in two places to disperse stone throwing mobs. Eight persons were arrested. Three state transport buses were set on fire at different places in the state yesterday.

Official Discusses Foreign Nationals in Assam

BK100349 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] The union home secretary, Mr R.D. Pradhan, now on a tour of northeastern region, had another round of talks with leaders of the All-Assam Students' Union in Gauhati yesterday. Official sources said that the discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere to find out an acceptable solution to the foreign nationals' issue. Earlier during the day, the home secretary visited Agartala and held discussions with senior Army and police officials about the law and order situation in Tripura. He also met the state chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborty.

Zia Swears In New Federal, Provincial Ministers

BK101603 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] In Rawalpindi today members of the Federal Cabinet were sworn in. They include 13 ministers and 7 ministers of state. The ministers and their portfolios are:

Communications — Prince Mohyuddin Baluch

Finance and Planning — Dr Mahbubul Haq

Foreign Affairs — Sahabzada Yaqub Khan

Housing and Works — Yusuf Reza Gilani

Industries — Syed Zafar Ali Shah

Information and Broadcasting — Hamid Nasir Chadha

Justice and Parliamentary Affairs — Iqbal Ahmad Khan

Labor, Manpower and Overseas Pakistani Affairs — Haji Hanif Tayyab

Local Government and Rural Development — Ghulam Mohammad Ahmad Khan Manika

Production — Khaqan Abbasi

Railways — Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan of Hoti

Trade — Salim Saifullah

Water and Power — Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali

Sardar Ghulam Mohammad Mahar and Dr M.A. Kazi have been appointed advisers.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq administered the oath to the ministers and the ministers of state at a ceremony at the state guest house. Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo was present on the occasion. Addressing the ministers after the swearing in ceremony, the president reminded that the nation is entering an historic era. He expressed the hope that the elected leadership will fulfill the expectations of the people and work for the supremacy of the nation and Islam. He emphasized to the ministers that they have an extremely important responsibility to make the country an Islamic state in the true sense.

Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo presided over the first meeting of the Cabinet immediately after the swearing in ceremony at the prime minister's Secretariat.

Welcoming the new ministers and ministers of state, the prime minister emphasized that they should maintain close contact with people in their respective constituencies so that the government's policies are prepared in accordance with the hopes and aspirations of the people. He said although the people's problems are complex and diverse in nature and there is no easy solution to them, it is imperative for a responsible government to keep in mind by all possible means the problems, sentiments, and feelings of the common people. The prime minister said a new era has dawned with the establishment of an elected government after 8 years and the people naturally have high expectations that their elected representatives will remove their problems and difficulties. The prime minister emphasized the importance of the forthcoming budget session of the National Assembly and said in this connection a great responsibility lies with the government on behalf of the assembly and people.

The finance and planning minister briefed the Cabinet about the current economic situation. He said the economy has been on an upswing and despite the reduction in the current wheat crop and falling prices of cotton and rice at the international level it has registered a record 8 to 9 percent level of growth.

The prime minister was asked to give full details of next year's development plan and provide necessary information and statistics to be considered by the Cabinet. The prime minister directed that the Cabinet's Economic Coordination Committee meet within the next 3 to 4 days so that the economic measures prepared by the finance minister could be considered. These measures aim at improving the economy, increasing exports, and assessing the trend in remittances of overseas Pakistanis and [word indistinct] considering the steps being taken to endorse the Islamic economic system in the country. He directed that a special Cabinet session should be summoned immediately after the committee meeting to consider the economic situation and development.

The foreign minister briefed the Cabinet about the internal [as heard] situation and the state of Pakistan's relations with neighboring countries, superpowers, and other countries. It was decided that the Cabinet should formally meet frequently so that all important matters of national and international importance are considered at the highest level of government without delay.

The prime minister and his colleagues paid glowing tribute to President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq for his determination to establish elected government in the country.

The restoration of the democratic institutions in the country is a historic deed and in this connection the president is worthy of commendation for formulating a pragmatic policy.

The meeting began with a recitation from the Koran by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. Later, the prime minister announced the portfolios of the ministers and the ministers of state.

The prime minister will be in charge of the remaining portfolios.

Portfolios of New Ministers of State Announced

BK101731 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Excerpts] The members of the Federal Cabinet were sworn in in Rawalpindi today. They include 13 ministers and 7 ministers of state.

The ministers of state and their portfolios are:

Food and Agriculture — Mir Haji Karim

Foreign Affairs — Zain Noorani

Labor and Manpower — Rai Mansab Ali

Population Welfare — Dr Attiya Inayatullah

Production — Islamuddin Sheykh

Religious and Minorities Affairs

States and Frontier Region, Kashmir and Northern Affairs — Syed Qasim Shah

Ziaul Haq Leaves for Visit to Saudi Arabia

BK101541 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan will discharge the responsibilities as acting president during President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq's absence from the country. The president left for Saudi Arabia this afternoon. General K.M. Arif, vice chief of Army staff, will be the acting chief martial law administrator during this time.

Junejo Briefs Press on National Issues, Tasks

BK100153 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 Apr 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has said the foremost task before him is to put the federal and provincial governments in full gear so that they are able to address the problems of the people. Talking informally to the editors of the national and regional press in Rawalpindi, the prime minister said he would soon have a meeting with the provincial chief ministers to (?list) priorities and draw up strategy to tackle urgent national problems. The projected meetings with the chief ministers, he added, would facilitate a coordinated approach to various issues. Such a coordination between federal and provincial governments, he said, was essential for the smooth running of affairs at both levels.

Mr Junejo said he had already visited Sind and Punjab Provinces and would soon undertake tours of the NWFP and Baluchistan. He said he himself took the first opportunity to seek a vote of confidence from the National Assembly after being designated as prime minister. In doing so, he was motivated by his conviction that a prime minister enjoying the confidence of the elected representatives was in a better position to move ahead. Mr Junejo said he had great regard for politicians and had stressed that there should be a dialogue. The other side should be flexible and not rigid. All of us want stability for the civilian government and representative institutions. The prime minister drew a comparison between the conditions prevailing in 1970 with those (?as) prevailing now and said unlike the experience of 1970, the present regime had been very sincere in the peaceful transfer of power.

He said the National Assembly would meet in the 3d week of May for the budget session, whose first priority would be the federal budget for the next financial year. The assembly, however, could also discuss other matters, including the question of political parties. It would be his endeavor to see that the National Assembly met as frequently as possible. The members would have full freedom to express their views on various national issues.

The prime minister listened to various points raised by the editors and said it was not his intention to put any unnecessary curb on the press.

He stressed the vital role that the press has to play in national affairs and expressed the desire that there should be frequent meetings between him and the editors for exchange of views on issues of national importance.

Regarding elimination of bribery, inefficiency, and other social evils, he sought the cooperation of the press and other sections of the society in removing this.

Asked about the recent visit of the Indian external affairs secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, the prime minister said it was a goodwill visit and there was very useful exchange of views.

Both sides wanted to normalize and strengthen their mutual relations, he added.

Belgian Vice Prime Minister Arrives 10 April

BK100651 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] Belgian Vice Prime Minister Jean Gol arrived in Islamabad this morning on a 3-day visit to Pakistan. He will hold talks in the federal capital on matters relating to promotion of economic cooperation between Pakistan and Belgium.

Afghan Airspace Violation 10 April Protested

BK111020 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Four Afghan aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace in Arandu area of Chitral yesterday, infiltrating about 4 km inside Pakistan's territory. They dropped five bombs about 3 km southeast of Arandu. However, no causalties or damage has been reported.

The charge d'affaires of the Karmal regime was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and a strong protest lodged with him over this unprovoked attack. He was asked to inform his authorities that if such attacks did not cease, the entire responsibility for the serious consequences would rest with the Kabul authorities.

Mujahidin Shoot Down Transport Plane in Baghlan

BK111027 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have shot down a transport plane near Baghlan military airport, killing 24 Soviet-Karmal personnel. They also knocked out a tank of the Soviet-Karmal mobile force near Tahri Kalay. The mujahidin are also reported to have attacked a temporary camp at Ushan subdivision in Nangarhar Province, damaging three tanks and armored vehicles. The Soviet-Karmal troops while retreating lost 35 Karmal troops and 6 others were captured by mujahidin. In the battle, 20 Karmal troops joined the mujahidin.

U.S. Aid Curbs Tied to Nuclear Program 'Unjust'

GF101234 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 5 Apr p 8

[Editorial: "An Unkind Cut"]

[Text] The news from Washington that the U.S. Congress foreign policy panel too plans to impose curbs on aid to Pakistan on grounds of a certain nuclear capacity which we might have makes strange reading. Only a few days earlier a U.S. Senate panel had singled out Pakistan for a similar aid ineligibility. The provocation for all this is said to be the attempt by a private businessman of Pakistan to export Krytron switches from U.S. some time back. That such switches are used for many other kinds of machines and that the gentleman held responsible for it had no connection with the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission or with any other government agency, have apparently not been found as good enough explanations.

Both the House and the Senate in U.S. are of course sovereign legislative bodies and free to make any laws that they deem proper, but what makes this particular situation so bizarre is that the conditions and curbs are meant only for Pakistan, supposedly a close friend, and do not apply to those countries which not only have much more advanced nuclear capacities but also are not that close — as for example, India. Had such a law been passed against Pakistan by a country like Israel or South Africa (both incidentally already in the nuclear club), the thing would have been understandable, because they have a grudge against us for raising our voice against the persecution of the Arabs and the blacks. But that it should have been sponsored and supported in the highest U.S. legislative bodies gives one that strangest of feelings that the law makers there are after all not as free in their deliberations as might be expected.

That the Zionists can get even a manifestly unjust measure passed in U.S. against a friend of U.S. speaks volumes for the vulnerability of U.S. foreign policy. And what makes it even more strange is the fact that the lobbies which are apparently so successful in the U.S. legislatures in doing down and mortifying a friendly country are not working in the interest of U.S. The masters that they obviously serve are elsewhere. That the case for Pakistan is not fully understood in U.S. goes without saying. That Pakistan cannot give up its nuclear research programme without committing a virtual suicide in regard to its energy development also perhaps needs to be explained more fully. The efforts made by our embassy in U.S. though commendable, need to be reinforced further. Even though the propaganda clout of the Zionists in U.S. cannot be matched and even though our sympathy for the cruelly victimised people of Palestine cannot be given up, the public there can still be told of the harm that is being done to U.S. interests abroad.

MASHRIQ Views Friendship Between India, USSR

GF091650 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 2 Apr 85 p 6

[Article by Fazlur Rehram Na'im: "The Indo-Soviet Friendship of Today May Turn to Hostility Tomorrow"]

[Text] It is said that communism is against capitalism but in fact both of them are colonialist weapons and means of exploitation. The disgraceful way the capitalist countries have been imposing their will over the weaker countries is also being followed by the Soviet Union, the greatest supporter of communism. The USSR quietly has been trying for ages to reach the warm waters of the Indian Ocean; now, they quite openly have set this as their goal and have already embarked on this journey. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is a link of this very chain.

After Soviet control over Afghanistan is complete, the Strait of Hormuz, on which the Soviets set their eyes a long time ago, will only be a few minutes away for their supersonic jets. A distance of 300 miles is no distance at all for jets that are faster than sound. Leaving the Strait of Hormuz aside, the other Middle East oil centers too will not remain beyond the Soviet's reach for long. Although the Soviet Union is self-sufficient in oil, it is fully aware that Middle East oil is vital to the industrial and economic life of the Western countries. If it succeeds in blocking this oil supply to the West, it will bring them to their knees in no time and they will have no choice but to bow to Soviet supremacy.

As I have written earlier, India and the USSR have been cooperating with each other for the last 3 decades. After they signed their 1971 friendship treaty, the USSR gave India huge packages of aid in the financial and arms field. India's ability to produce fighters and warships has been mainly due to Soviet technical and economic aid. Moreover, India has received its MIG-29 fighter-bombers which the Soviet Union has yet to give to any of its allies. I would not have hesitated in acknowledging the benefits of these deals but it is a matter of regret that India has failed to learn from past history. They think that by manufacturing huge quantities of weapons of destruction and tanks they will be able to turn the balance of power in Southeast Asia to their favor. But Indian leaders should realize that the balance of power is already in their favor whether they have these destructive weapons or not. India is a much larger country, both in population and resources, than its neighbors. Also, it is now a military power.

In these circumstances one fails to understand what India is afraid of? Who is India taking on with its huge Army of hundreds of thousands of men, 40 air squadrons, and a vast Navy? The answer might be found if we analyze the facts:

1. India has deployed three-fourths of its Army on its borders with Pakistan.

2. It has no military base of any importance anywhere close to Tibet or China. All of India's bases point toward Pakistan. This is because it is not possible for India to fly deep into China and strike this country.

3. The Indian Navy can challenge neither the American nor the Soviet Navies. In fact there is no need for India to do so. China has no naval units in the Indian Ocean.

The answer thus becomes clear. The only country left for an Indian onslaught is Pakistan.

I wish India would turn to the pages of history where it will find these words: "political and personal friendships or hostilities are not enduring."

The friendship with the Soviet Union that India is proud of today may turn to hostility tomorrow. Pakistan, which today is India's war target, may become India's friend tomorrow and rush to its aid.

Opposition Leader on MRD-Government Talks

GF081320 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Apr 85 p 12

[Excerpt] Lahore, April 3 — Malik Mohammad Qasim, secretary-general of the defunct Pakistan Muslim League [PML] (Khwaja Khairuddin group), has no objection to an MRD-government dialogue provided the agenda is made public and the Prime Minister assures the MRD of his authority to hold talks and take decisions.

There can be no secret talks, and issues like restoration of fundamental rights, restoration of the 1973 Constitution, annulment of all amendments made by the military regime, repeal of the National Security Council, revival of political parties, restoration of all powers of the judiciary and freedom of press are not negotiable, he declared in categorical terms while speaking in the Tajzia [analysis] programme of the Lahore Press Club Wednesday afternoon. He clarified that this was his party's point of view, and that he would stress the same at MRD meetings, but he was bound by the decisions of the MRD.

Making a pointed reference to the elected representative, the PML leader said: "We would be prepared to extend them unconditional and unqualified support if they prove their credentials by working for the realisation of these objectives."

He noted that while on the one hand General Ziaul Haq had set a precondition that Parliament's discussion of amendments to the Constitution and Presidential orders was subject to his prior approval, on the other he had publicly announced that Parliament could reject them. Malik Qasim was of the opinion that by this international ambiguity, President Zia had tried to shift responsibility to the newly-elected members. To prove their credentials, these representatives should try to get these amendments repealed, he added. The PML secretary general was of the view that formation of the National Security Council would lead to perpetual martial law in the country, saying that in the presence of this body the lifting of martial law would be meaningless.

Malik Qasim defended MRD's boycott of elections and said the decision was in the best national interest. Adherence to this decision by all MRD parties and others outside its fold had promoted national cohesion and would help in ushering in what he called "clean politics" in the country.

He rejected the suggestion that refraining from participation in the recent elections amounted to missing the bus.

Anyway, "it was as a result of our pressure that the bus started to move. Actually, we are trying to make sure that the bus goes in the right direction. We are trying to salvage the bus."

He said in these elections it would not have been difficult for any MRD leader to win a seat but, he claimed, it was a measure their statesmanship that everybody preferred national interests over individual ones.

The boycott decision was also necessary to frustrate what he called "a trap" to accept the result of the December 19 referendum, against which "the entire nation had given its verdict."

"The political parties of the country had set a new precedent by refraining from being a party to a big wrong at the expense of petty interests," he maintained.

Opposition Head Lists Conditions for Dialogue

GF091050 Karachi DAWN in English 6 Apr 85 p 10

[Excerpt] Peshawar, April 5: Mr Aftab Sherpao, provincial chief of defunct PPP [Pakistan People's Party], has said he opposes dialogue with the government unless all political detenus are freed, martial law is lifted, fundamental rights of the people restored and MRD's four-points implemented.

The decision about talks with the government could be taken only after an in-depth discussion among MRD leaders "which is possible only after our demands are accepted", he stated.

Addressing a large gathering of party workers on the sixth death anniversary of late Prime Minister Z.A. Bhutto, on Thursday, Mr Aftab Sherpao questioned Prime Minister Junejo's bonafides for talks with politicians "when he holds no ground and commands no power except talking of corruption, beyond which he seems helpless".

Mr Sherpao was of the view that Mr Junejo's nomination as prime minister had "least impressed the masses whose interests could not be served by drawing-room politics of people like Junejos, Arbabs and Saifullahs", adding that soon "all of them will stand exposed, for they have been instrumental in eliminating the people from country's body politic and because they cannot go beyond assembly speeches, they should resign".

Pakistan, he observed, belonged to the people while events of the last two months or so had been so construed as to tighten the grip of feudals and capitalists on the masses. We cannot allow feudalism and capitalism to grow at the cost of the people, he declared.

Paying tributes to the late Mr Bhutto, Mr Sherpao reaffirmed that the party, which had emerged stronger after the death of its leader, would strive against the reactionaries and exploiters as it did against the military junta. Mr Junejo's prime ministership would make no difference, he said.

The provincial chief of the party categorically stated that the elected representatives could not go an inch farther without the revival of political parties, and their political career was doomed if their objective was confined to grabbing ministries.

Referring to amendments in the Constitution, Mr Sherpao said it should have been left to the assembly but the CMLA [chief martial law administrator] could not trust the elected representatives and therefore he made unilateral amendments. He said the amendments were not Islamic but based on some pick-and-choose from the constitutions of France, Australia and the United States. "Are these Islamic constitutions?" he asked.

Mr Sherpao expressed the view that amendments in the Constitution proved that the military junta was not prepared to transfer power to the elected representatives.

About the MRD's decision to boycott elections, Mr Sherpao reaffirmed it was correct, and later events had proved that MRD could not participate in partyless elections which were not in conformity with the 1973 Constitution and were held under the umbrella of martial law.

Besides, there was no guarantee that after elections martial law would be lifted and Constitution would be restored in its original form. These elections had revived the period of drawing-room politics of the fifties, he asserted.

MRD's was a principled decision based on gross aversion to bargaining freedom of the people for assembly seats and ministries, he added.

BANGLADESH

Delhi Cites Ershad on Relaxing Martial Law

BK110430 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] The Bangladesh president, Lieutenant General Ershad, has announced that martial law will be relaxed in the country after the elections to the rural local bodies next month. Talking to REUTER, he said that the ban on political activities will also lifted. Replying to a question, General Ershad, however, said that future plans to restore democracy in the country depend on the attitude of the opposition leaders.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene, Indian Parliamentarian Hold Talks

BK100345 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] The deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Dr Najma Heptullah, had an hour-long meeting with President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka in Colombo. A spokesman for the Indian High Commission said bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting. The Indian high commissioner, Mr S.J.S. Chatwal, was also present during the talks.

Colombo Security Tightened for Thatcher Arrival

HK111018 Hong Kong Domestic Service in English 1009 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] A big security operation has been mounted in the Sri Lankan capitol Colombo for the visit of the prime minister, Mrs Thatcher. Strict precautions were taken following a bomb explosion at Colombo airport in which one person was killed and several others injured. Police suspect that Tamil separatist guerrillas were responsible. In another incident, guerrillas attacked a police station in the northern city of Jaffna, killing two policemen. Mrs Thatcher is due to arrive in Sri Lanka from Indonesia on the latest stage of her Asian tour.

Tamil Separatists Attack Jaffna Police Station

HK110730 Hong Kong AFP in English 0658 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] Colombo, April 11 (AFP) — One policeman was killed and eight Tamil separatists were believed to have died when armed militants attacked a northern police station last night, National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said here today.

Mr. Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the militants attacked a police station in the Northern Province capital of Jaffna around 9.45 p.m. (1615 GMT) last night.

He said that one policeman had been confirmed dead in the attack while a second body had yet to be identified. Two other policemen received minor wounds, he added.

Mr. Athulathmudali cited reports from Jaffna which said that the militants were seen removing at least eight bodies this morning from near the police station. He said the bodies were believed to be those of the attackers killed in the shootout.

The minister said that the attackers suffered casualties when Army reinforcements from a nearby camp were rushed to the police station and opened fire on the militants forcing them to withdraw.

Mr. Athulathmudali said the attack appeared to have been made by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) one of the separatist groups fighting for a Tamil independent homeland in the north of the island.

He said it was the first major attack on a police station in the north in nearly six weeks.

Meanwhile, the government will lift a dusk-to-dawn curfew in the Northern Province tonight because of the Sinhala and Tamil new year which begins tomorrow.

BBC Report

BK111247 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] The Sri Lanka Government said 24 people died when Tamil separatists attacked a police station in the northern town of Jaffna. The attack took place on the eve of the visit by the British prime minister, who is due in Sri Lanka shortly on the next stage of her Asian tour. Our correspondent Mark Tully, who is in Colombo, says there is speculation that the attack was timed to embarass the Sri Lankan Government during Mrs Thatcher's visit.

[Begin Tully recording] The government press statement says that security forces repulsed an attack on the Jaffna police station and the office of the deputy inspector general of police last night. According to the statement, 20 Tamil separatist guerrillas and 4 policemen died. The government believes that the attackers belonged to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, one of the separatist groups negotiating for merger with three others.

The statement also says that Jaffna's town hall and municipal buildings were severely damaged by fire from the attackers. Earlier in the day, the police said that the Army had been called out to drive off the guerrillas and [words indistinct].

This incident breaks a lull of more than a month in the violence in the north. There have, however, been incidents in the east in which 30 people have died.

Sri Lankan journalists believe that this new outbreak of violence in north has been deliberately timed to coincide with the arrival of the British prime minister, Mrs Thatcher, due here later today. They believe that the Tamil separatists want to embarass the Sri Lankan Government and take advantage of the presence of a large number of foreign journalists covering Mrs Thatcher's visit. [end recording]

Rafsanjani on Chemical Arms, Israeli Bomb Attack

LD101431 Tehran IRNA in English 1357 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA — Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani the Iranian Majlis speaker Wednesday warned that Iran will "show its power" if Iraq continued to use chemical weapons in its war against the Islamic Republic. He was speaking at Razi vaccine factory in Karaj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the Islamic Republic had "limited patience" regarding Iraq's inhumane act of deploying chemical weapons.

He said Iran has repeatedly tried through various means and military offensives to persuade the Iraqi regime to halt its use of chemical bombs.

"But if the Iraqis will not change their mind and continue their mischief we will show them our power," he said.

The Majlis speaker also spoke on Tuesday's self-sacrificing bomb attack against an Israeli convoy in Lebanon and said the world had become such a degraded place that a selfless human had to give up her life.

"The girl had said before her move that she was calm and ready for defending justice," he said.

But worst of all is how the propaganda organizations treat this event, he added.

Rafsanjani said instead of using this "sacred blood" against the aggressors, the propaganda organizations introduce it as terrorism and a senseless suicide attack.

Further Reportage on Iraqi Chemical Weapons Use

UN, Red Cross Informed

LD101833 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA — In separate cables to the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, and to the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Alexandre Hay, the secretary general of the Iranian Chapter of the Red Crescent Society Dr Vahid Dastjerdi, today informed them that the Iraqi Government had employed toxic chemical weapons against the Iranian combatants on April 8, and 9.

The Iranian Red Crescent official has also called on the U.N. secretary general and the ICRC to take every necessary measure in order to ensure that the Baghdad government would immediately stop its deployment of lethal chemical weapons against the Iranian troops in the battlefronts.

Dr. Vahid Dastjerdi reminded De Cuellar and Hay that the Baghdad government had used chemical weapons when the U.N. secretary general was in Baghdad and on a visit in relation with the Iraq-Iran war. He said in his cables to the two international officials that the silence of the two organizations in the face of the war crimes by the Iraqi regime would serve to disappoint the oppressed masses throughout the world and at the same time encourage the Iraqi regime to continue its war crimes in Iran.

UN Envoy Condemns Iraq

GF111714 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Apr 85

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Mr Rajaie-Khorasani, Iran's representative at the United Nations, yesterday asked UN Secretary General Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar to visit Tehran to once again view the results and proof of Iraq's renewed use of chemical weapons against the Islamic warriors.

The Iranian delegate to the United Nations also stressed: Iraq, coinciding with the UN secretary general's trip to Baghdad, used chemical weapons on the southern fronts.

These included mustard and nerve gases which were used against the warriors of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This happened while Iraq had announced a one sided cease-fire to honor Mr De Cuellar's visit to Baghdad.

Rajaie-Khorasani added: The continued use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime is contradicting all repeated requests made by the UN secretary general to stop the use of such weapons. This shows the criminal nature of the rulers of Baghdad and their indifference towards international regulations.

The Iranian delegate also asked the UN Security Council to condemn Iraq's repeated violations of international regulations and to end its silence towards Iraqi crimes.

Military Commander Comments

LD101841 Tehran IRNA in English 1757 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] Ilam, April 10, IRNA — A military commander told IRNA here today that the war crimes perpetrated by the Iraqi Government are without precedence in all history.

The Iranian military commander who was referring to Iraq's deployment of lethal chemical weapons against Iran's Muslim combatants and its aerial attacks against the towns and cities recently said Saddam Husayn had resorted to such drastic measures as means of delaying the eventual fall of his government, but that in effect the attacks had as though precipitated his fall.

The military commander quoted Imam Khomeyni in relation with the nature and purpose of the imposed Iraqi war saying that as far as related to the Islamic Republic the Iraq-Iran war is an ideological one, that is a war between the divine truth and falsehood.

He expressed confidence that Iran's Muslim combatants would eventually triumph in the war, and reminded that the capturing of about three thousand Iraqi prisoners of war, and their death toll of 7,000 in a single thrust by the Iranian troops on March 12 (Badr operations) had seriously demoralised the Iraqi troops.

He also called on Iran's Muslim people to continue their unity and their integrity behind the fronts and feel confident about the eventual victory of Iran's Muslim combatants.

Reporters Visit Victims

LD101354 Tehran IRNA in English 1220 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] Tehran April 10, IRNA — A group of twenty foreign and local reporters visited the victims of the latest Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons in the Badr operational region, at Tehran's Labbafi-Nejad hospital.

The reporters visited four of the Islamic combatants afflicted by the toxic chemicals who are suffering from skin, eye and lung injuries.

On the wounded, Abdol Reza Achrash, told *LE MONDE* reporter that the Iraqi planes on Monday (April 8) dropped chemical bombs in the Badr operational region. He said he was suffering from eye burns, respiratory problems and also blisters on his skin. Achrash who is a member of the Basij forces, criticised the silence of international organisations towards the Iraqi usage of chemical weapons. He further added that Saddam had no respect for international laws and, therefore, he must be taught a proper lesson.

Another victim, Bijan Barati Dehguneh, told REUTER reporter that as the chemical bombs were dropped, a white gas with pungent smell spread in the area.

He told IRNA that if the U.N. aims at preventing usage of chemicals weapons, it should condemn those who have been providing the Iraqi regime with such chemicals.

Another combatant, 18 year-old Iraj Mahregan from Khuzestan Pr., told the American television network, N.B.C. reporter that he was afflicted in the Majnun Island area and was suffering from severe eye injury. "If the United Nations had not turned a blind eye to the war crimes of (Iraqi ruler) Saddam, the aggressors would have paid attention to international conventions," he added.

The attending physician of the combatants, Dr. Feizollah Yazdani, briefed the visiting reporters on the conditions of the patients. He said that the Iraqi regime last Monday had used mustard gas which resulted in skin, lung and eye injuries of a number of combatants. He added that due to precautionary measures the effect of the gas had been minimised and fewer people had been afflicted than before.

Further Attacks Reported

LD101544 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Pr., April 10, IRNA — The Iraqi forces have once again carried out chemical warfare in the Badr operational region in the southern fronts between Tuesday afternoon and this morning. The Islamic forces were attacked by Iraqi planes with rockets artillery shells containing toxic chemicals.

A number of combatants were affected by the poison and were immediately transferred to medical centres for treatment. Many of them were later released after recovering from minor disorientation and returned to the battle front.

This was the third time the Iraqi forces launched chemical attacks in three days. The Iraqis used chemical bombs in their attacks in the same region Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning, as the U.N. secretary general was in Baghdad calling for an end to the violation of international laws, especially the use of chemical weapons.

The Islamic Republic has called on the U.N. to establish an observer team in Tehran to report on Iraq's chemical attacks.

Communique Cites Injuries

LD101815 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA — One hundred and four Iranian combatants were injured as a result of their exposure to chemical weapons used by the Iraqi troops in one of the southern fronts Tuesday night [9 April] the Joint Staff communique reported today.

The communique also said Iraqi fighter bombers bombed the town of Bostan in Khuzestan Province, at 09:20 am (05.50 GMT) today.

It said on Tuesday Iranian combatants destroyed one mortar launcher of the enemy forces as well as two of their bunkers in the central sector of the battle front.

Elsewhere, sporadic artillery fire was exchanged, with the Iranian forces holding out in their positions and checking enemy operations.

In the northern sector, Iranian troops checked the relocation of enemy troops in an area overlooking Hajj 'Umran.

In one area near the Iranian city of Baneh, in Kordestan Province, an enemy infantry column was pounded and dispersed. Some casualties were inflicted on the enemy forces.

Another Iraqi patrol unit was dispersed as it attempted to infiltrate Iranian positions in an area near Piranshahr, also in the north.

In the south, Iran's Islamic forces checked enemy operations in the Arvand River front, destroying five of their artillery emplacements.

Meanwhile five houses and three shops were destroyed in Abadan on Tuesday as they were hit by shelling by the Iraqi forces.

Iraqi Aircraft Over Khorramabad Repulsed

LD101617 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] Khorramabad, Lorestan Pr., April 10, IRNA — Iraqi fighters flew over Khorramabad in Lorestan Province south of the country Tuesday night but were forced to flee under the fire of anti-aircraft guns. The attackers failed to carry out their mission. The violation came at 22:06 (18:36 GMT).

Perez de Cuellar Visits to Iraq, Iran Discussed

GF100744 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 10 Apr 85

[From "Pause with the Events" program]

[Excerpts] During his visit to Tehran and his meeting with officials in the Islamic Republic, Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, was convinced that he must concentrate his efforts on the statement issued by the international organization last week on ending the military crimes committed by the Iraqi regime and to exert pressure on Iraq to make the Baghdad regime refrain from committing these crimes. Three days ago, the UN secretary general expressed his views with no intention to follow up the statement he issued last week but after his 1-day visit to Tehran, he frankly announced that he will follow up the statement in Baghdad and that he is still demanding the implementation of his plan which consists of four points:

1. Halting the use of chemical weapons;
2. Stopping attacks against residential and civilian areas;
3. Stopping attacks against commercial ships;
4. Stopping threats against civilian airliners.

Officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran during their meeting with the UN secretary general said that the judgment of the war differs from that of the military crimes. The Iraqi regime intends to commit military crimes in order to achieve its goals and that international bodies especially the United Nations must react strongly toward this illogical stance and oppose it.

De Cuellar was convinced in Tehran that his recent logical stand must be followed up in Baghdad. But to what extent will the Iraqi regime accept this stand? It is a matter which does not need a long time to learn its results.

During their meeting with the UN secretary general, Iranian officials affirmed the responsibilities of international bodies, especially the United Nations. They demanded a frank condemnation of the Iraqi regime as an aggressor and war criminal which used chemical weapons and attacked residential and civilian areas.

Islamic Iran affirms anew its logical stand which is the goal of continuing its holy defense during the imposed war to uproot aggression from the region. This goal will not be achieved unless the just conditions of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been accomplished.

Iran is fully confident that any cease-fire during which the aggresser receives aid and protection from beyond its borders is only a chance for the aggresser to reorganize its forces and to prepare for a wider and more comprehensive war. The cease-fire is a golden opportunity for the aggresser to continue its military crimes. Also the cease-fire is a known method to achieve the goals that the aggresser failed to accomplish through military means.

The UN secretary general is well aware that the recent war is not a war between Iran and Iraq but is a war stirred by the enemy of the people so as to humiliate the Islamic Revolution. They have used Iraq as the spearhead in this war. Accordingly, there is no other practical way except to bring despair to the hearts of the protectors of the aggressive Iraqi regime who continue to protect and support the war criminals in Baghdad.

In spite of this and stemming from its beliefs and its respect for humanity, Iran did not intend and still does not intend to retaliate for the crimes of the Baghdad regime by attacking Iraqi cities. If the Iraqi regime stopped committing its military crimes, Islamic Iran would stop retaliating in kind.

Officials in the Islamic Republic have welcomed the recent stand adopted by the UN secretary general. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and spokesman for the Supreme Defense Council, frankly told the UN secretary general that if there is a way to end the war, it is the way he has chosen, and that he must, in the first place, prevent the occurance of violations of international laws so that our people can hear the voices of the free men in the world.

However, the current issue is whether the UN secretary general will be able to correct the bad impressions and wrong stands adopted by international bodies toward the imposed war? It is an issue that may take a long time to answer.

Cabinet Discusses Pipeline, Defense Budget

LD101449 Tehran IRNA in English 1405 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA — The Iranian cabinet Wednesday discussed construction of a pipeline to southern coast of the Persian Gulf and approved a 108 billion rial (dls. 1.1 b.) auxiliary budget for the Armed Forces.

President 'Ali Khamene'i who headed the meeting said the project for the construction of a pipeline to the Sea of Oman must start. The Cabinet had approved the basics of the project in 1982.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said the Supreme Defence Council has reiterated the need for a ministerial commission and the Oil Ministry to look into the matter.

The Minister of Oil Mohammad Gharazi had earlier reported on the state of his ministry and other ministers had followed with a discussion on the report.

The ministers also approved a 108 billion rial auxiliary budget for the Defence Ministry and the Ministry of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps.

Besharati on Anniversary of Breaking Ties With U.S.

LD101246 Tehran IRNA in English 1052 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA — The war would continue until the materialisation of Iran's objectives, Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said in a speech today. He said anytime the Iraqi Ba'thist rulers engage in follies, they will receive a firm response from Iran. Besharati was speaking on the anniversary of the severance of ties between Iran and the United States, in a ceremony attended by a large number of gendarmerie personnel.

The Iranian official said the original settlers in the United States were sea pirates and he criticised the U.S. for leaving its vast oil resources untapped and instead, plundering the oil reserves of the Third World countries.

NVOI Discusses Plight of Afghan Refugees in Iran

TA102018 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Unattributed commentary: "The Poverty of Deceived Afghans in Iran"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Our homeland's people, who themselves are facing various deprivations, are anguished at the poverty and deprivation of Afghans residing in Iran who left their country under the influence of hostile propaganda.

Any time you walk the streets of Tehran, be it day or night, you confront a group of Afghans whose faces are pale and whose clothes are in tatters. These Afghans aimlessly roam the streets, followed by their naked and unclad children. Even hard and menial jobs are out of their reach. A handful of exploiting capitalists are benefiting from the cheap labor of these Afghans.

However, one can see Afghans from another class in our homeland as well. They are counterrevolutionaries who engage in willful and illegal acts. These Afghans, along with the Islamic guards, take part in crushing workers' protests within the country and in suppressing anyone who speaks the truth. In the training camps of Afghan counterrevolutionaries, they are either trained to carry out subversive activities in Afghanistan or to suppress and torture struggling Iranians. However, besides these traitors there are hundreds of thousands of deceived Afghans who came to Iran either under the influence of propaganda or in search of work, and all are facing starvation and deprivation.

The Islamic regime is preventing their repatriation by every means, and is aggravating bloody clashes between them and the guards. A living example of this attitude is the bloody clash that occurred in Mashhad, as a result of which scores of Afghans were killed and hundreds wounded. This is not the first nor will it be the last clash. Hundreds of Afghans have been killed or wounded during bloody clashes in Malavi square in Tehran, Varamin, Karaj, Saveh, Shiraz, and Mashhad. The deprivation and suffering of the citizens of Tehran compliments the pains and deprivations of Afghans in Tehran.

Right now grief has settled on the faces of many of those who fought for the revolution. One can hear in every alley and district the sound of moaning and wailing from those who have lost their loved ones. The smiles of children can no longer be seen in towns. One can hardly find a child whose mother or father, brother or sister, has not been killed.

By exploiting the counterrevolutionary Afghans, Mr Khomeyni's Islamic regime is trying to hide Afghanistan's revolutionary transformations from the view of hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees, and to keep them uninformed of the decision by the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan about the general amnesty for Afghans who return to their homeland. However, despite all these, Afghans in Iran are gradually getting acquainted with the true evolution of events in their homeland, and want to return there.

Free Voice of Iran on Political Prisoner Execution

GF101920 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 10 Apr 85

[Text] [Words indistinct] political prisoners were secretly executed in Shushtar. The Free Voice of Iran correspondent reports that last Saturday eight political prisoners were shot by the Revolution Guards in Shushtar and their bodies were secretly buried.

The people of Shushtar held demonstrations protesting the execution of these eight persons who, it was said, were supporters of the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization. A clash took place between the people and Revolution Guards.

The regime of the Islamic Republic does not report the execution of political prisoners although such executions have secretly continued for a long time.